

the discussion with each other and with the State Superintendent of their common problems, for an exchange of views and experiences, for mutual counsel and advice, and for the forming of plans for carrying on more uniformly and successfully the great work of educating all the people in the schools of all the people. It has seemed to me that during this biennial period the county superintendents have improved in the efficient and intelligent discharge of their duties, and that, on the whole, they have manifested a fine spirit of loyalty and devotion to their work. Much progress has been made in the organization, training, and direction of their teaching force and in the systematization, classification, and gradation of the work in the rural schools.

Progress in Rural Public High Schools.—During the biennial period 14 new public high schools have been established, making a total of 170 such schools in 87 counties of the State. There are, therefore, now only 11 counties that do not have one or more of these schools. The annual State appropriation for their maintenance was increased \$5,000 in 1909, making the total annual State appropriation for them \$50,000. During the biennial period \$240,040.51 has been expended for the maintenance of these schools.

The total enrollment of country boys and girls in them has been 5,282 in 1909, and 5,775 in 1910, a total of 11,057 for the biennial period—5,182 boys and 5,875 girls. This is an increase of 1,826 in the total enrollment of 1910 over the enrollment of 1908, an increase of 41 per cent in enrollment. There has been an average daily attendance of 3,787 in 1909, and 4,145 in 1910. The percentage of enrollment in average daily attendance has been 71 per cent for the two years.

In connection with some of these high schools, dormitories have been built and equipped, in which high-school students can secure board at actual cost and pay for it in money or in provisions at the market price.

These figures show an encouraging increase in enrollment and attendance upon these public high schools, indicating a commendable growth in public sentiment among the rural population for high-school education, for the elevation of the average of intelligence, and for better preparation for citizenship and service. A full report of these public high schools, prepared by the State Inspector of Public High Schools, is printed in another part of this Report.

Increase in Rural Libraries.—During the biennial period 528 new rural libraries have been established, costing \$16,840, containing an average of about 100 volumes of well-selected books. Seventy-six new supplemental libraries have been added to libraries formerly established, costing \$1,140, adding about 35 books to each of these libraries. The total number of rural libraries in the State at the close of the biennial period was 2,420, the total number of supplemental libraries 428. More than one-third of all the school districts in the State, white and colored, are now provided with rural libraries.

Loan Fund for Building Schoolhouses.—During the biennial period the total amount of new loans made from the State Loan Fund for Building and Improving Public School Houses is \$122,000 to 65 counties, for building and improving houses, valued at \$290,495. The total amount of loans made from this Loan Fund since its establishment in 1903 aggregates \$523,280.50 to 89 counties, for building and improving 995 houses, valued at \$1,265,788.

This fund continues to be of incalculable service in building and improving public school houses, the loans from it often making possible at once much needed new houses where they would not otherwise be possible without clos-